

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, January 22, 2009

~ Approved Minutes ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Carlos Sosa, Frank Baron, and Phillip Chen
- Absent: None

III. Approval of Minutes

**The minutes for the month of December 2008 were approved.
(Gasco/Perrou)**

IV. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Reported the following:

Public Hearing Announcement – A public hearing for the second half of PEI will take place on March 26, 2009 at St. Anne's. There will be a joint commission meeting and public hearing that day. The commission meeting will take place first. Details will follow.

Commission/SAAC Chairs – The group discussed the Points of Advocacy report developed by Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst. The report offers "how to" recommendations to advocate state legislature to keep Prop 63 funding for mental health programs. The discussion also answered questions from a individual community perspective.

The Commission/SAAC Chair meeting occurs every 2nd Tuesday. The next meeting is February 10, 2009. Commissioners are invited to attend.

New protocol – Chair requested introductions from the audience to take place every month. The new procedure will allow everyone to meet each other.

MHSA WET Program - Commissioner Victoria Sofro was selected the official WET Program representative from the Commission; a backup person needs to be identified.

Communication Coordination Network – Ken Kondo, DMH Public Information Officer, met with local elected representatives that discussed how MHSA funds are being used in the area of communication. The public needs to be aware of what communications resources are funded by MHSA. The following concluded from the meeting:

- A proposal to plan a campaign to expand and circulate information countywide on DMH and MHSA services was submitted to DMH Planning Division. The proposal details inviting 500 people from the media, elected officials, and commissions to a “Ramping Up Our Communication” event.
- Mr. Kondo recommended printing “MHSA funded” on all communication media produced by MHSA funds.

Larry Gasco, Vice Chair

CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Board/Commissions) – Commissioners Lubin, Gasco, Baron, and McNeill attended the CALMHBC on January 16-17, 2009. Commissioner Gasco provided an update on the following:

- Mobilizing an effort to stop government from utilizing Prop 63 funds for non mental health related items
- Next meeting will be in April 17-18, 2009 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles at LAX.
- Commended Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst, for presenting the “Points of Advocate” guidelines. The report energized other county participants to get involved and advocate for the proper use of Prop 63 funds.
- Other smaller counties are in the process of drafting letters noting the severity of health and mental health unmet needs.
- Some smaller counties are still waiting for the MHSA funding designated for mental health programs.

American Indian Collaborative

The Department is participating in a statewide Learning Collaborative through the California Institute of Mental Health. The overall goal of the Learning Collaborative is to strengthen communities to achieve and support wellness. The focus area being studied by Los Angeles County includes Cultural Healing practices: exploring integration of traditional Native American healing services with potential linkages to Western Healing to support wellness in the community.

The project is divided into two phases. Phase I is being finalized this month (January), focusing on the healing practices. Phase II is scheduled to begin in March, and will focus on policy and funding potential.

Paula Packwood, Chief of Special Projects and Dr Rod Shaner, Medical Director, are leading the Department on this project. Ana Suarez, District Chief SA 7, and Paul Sacco, Program Head American Indian Programs along with Marilyn Seide, Division Chief, are members of the core team.

Executive Committee meeting report (January 8, 2009) -

- Lyn Wallensak discussed the current situation of the county budget
- \$50 million shortfall expected next fiscal year
- Discussed how county budget system works
- Commented on a few county issues that are impacted by the state
- New service – DMH will be providing services to veterans. Chris Contreras will head up this program.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) – A short video was shown titled, “Groundhog Day.” The video was an enactment showing the various ways San Mateo law enforcement persuade a homeless person to get needed services. A discussion took place after viewing the video on the following issues:

- Explanation of transporting 5150 individuals by law enforcement to a psychiatric hospital or emergency room.
- What kinds of things can county do to eliminate law enforcement from transporting a 5150 patient.
- 3 - 4 hours to get patients to hospitals makes this process an unproductive use of law enforcement personnel.
- 6 of 10 people taken in 5150 situations are usually unnecessary and cause overcrowding in hospital psychiatric wards or emergency rooms. DMH has 5 PMRTs consisting of 150-180 members. The program is faced with the lack of beds in addition to lack of funding for indigent patients. Teams cannot handle 911 calls.
- Explanation of Codes used with 5150 holds
 - Code 2 is used when 5150 hold is placed and patient is not violent.
 - Code 3 is used when patient is violent.
- Meetings with DMH and DHS will continue to deploy a default system available 24/7.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Lana Brody - The screening for the film, “The Soloist,” will take place sometime April 2009. Commissioner Brody will be coordinating with Los Angeles County and NAMI to develop a guest list; further details will be provided as they develop.

Awards Program - The focus for 2009 awards program is Visual and Performing Arts. The event will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, May 21, 2009. Ms. Stacy Snider, CEO, DreamWorks Studios has accepted the invitation to be guest speaker. Ken Kondo, DMH Public Information Officer, is coordinating with some of the cast members in the movie "The Soloist" to attend the event as well.

- Art work created by students in the juvenile court schools who participate in the Arts SMART program will also be on display at the 2009 awards program. The Los Angeles County Office of Education is sponsoring the art exhibit.

Commissioner Victoria Sofro – Reported on the following:

- Save the Date – Connections for Life Conference - April 1, 2009 – California Endowment Center.
- Conference will have positive highlights on employment and education.
- Performance by – The Stompers
- Maximum attendance will be 200

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

MHSA Housing Trust Fund

The Department is in contract negotiations with awardees.

MHSA Housing Program

Eleven projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see attachment), and one has been approved for funding. One project, Progress Place I and II, has completed the public comment period but will soon be participating in a meeting with DMH to discuss significant changes to their proposal. The status of the other projects is shown below:

Initiating the Service Planning Process

- Mini Twelve Step House
- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Ford Apartments

Public Comment Period in Progress

- Nehemiah Court Apartments

Technical Submission Under Review

- Daniel's Village
- Villas at Gower
- Figueroa Apartments

Application Submitted to the State

- Glenoaks Gardens

- The Courtyards in Long Beach

Funding Request Approved

- Young Burlington

The current financial crisis is having an impact on some of the projects that have applied for funding under the MHSA Housing Program. It has become increasingly difficult for projects to get credit for loans to cover other project-related costs. This may result in some delays; however, the Department will keep the Mental Health Commission apprised of any new information that we receive regarding this issue.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on the MHSA Housing Advisory Board.

We are also continuing the preparation for the third annual Housing Institute scheduled for June 2009 at the California Endowment. For the first time, we will open this training up to statewide participation.

VI. Departmental Report

Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director

Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director

DMH Appointment – Dr. Shaner announced Dr. Robin Kay's appointment to Chief Deputy Director has been confirmed. The Commission extended congratulations to Dr. Robin Kay.

Budget – The state controller has suspended more payments that will impact the county budget in the following areas:

Negative impact --

- An unanticipated shortfall of about \$19.2 million. County is managing the shortfall through transformation efforts.
- Contract agencies are also transforming services that can be put under MHSA.
- Cuts will mostly impact primary care and substance abuse services for uninsured clients.

Hopeful impact --

- State maximum allowable exceeds payments
- Economic stimulation packet extended from \$16 - \$32 million in realignment funds.
- Still waiting for the state to release the guidelines for the \$40 million MHSA Innovation plan.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim and Roger Seward reported on the Client Run Center in service area 2.

- Client run center invites consumers to come and share talents at the monthly peer support and self-help activities. The Client Run Center is part of the Wellness Center at San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc. The Center provides a safe and comfortable place to meet other mental health consumers, build friendships, and socialize in the community.

VIII. Public Comments -

- William Legere – Encouraged Commission to support “no budget cuts.”
- Phyllis Coto – Client Coalition is not getting enough assistance from DMH staff. While the staff work on specialized projects, clients need student interns to work with.
- Elaine DeRoches– Press Telegram newspaper (January 22, 2009) reported that the state deficit is \$27 billion. The LAC/DMH would give PEI MHSA funds back to the state for state MHSA programs. Any comments?
- Robert Coto – Willing to advocate that state use MHSA funds for its intended purpose.
- Sawako Nitao – Made a suggestion about the law enforcement video; give cots and sleeping bags to the homeless until emergency beds are available.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information

The next scheduled meeting will be:

Thursday, February 26, 2009
12 – 2:30 pm
Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ch/ch